

## **TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

### **West Fertilizer Company dba Adair Grain, Inc. Incident Situation Report #6 April 20, 2013**

**Subject:** April 17, 2013 Explosion at West Fertilizer Company dba Adair Grain, Inc.

**Location:** 1471 Jerry Mashek Drive, West (McLennan County), TX 76691

This report covers activities conducted during the sixth operational period, beginning April 20, 2013 at 0700 hours through April 20, 2013, 1900 hours.

1. Mr. David Mann (Waco Region), Mr. Mike Daniels and Mr. Jerrett Kramer (Austin Region), and Mr. Neal Penny and Mr. Michael Bass (DFW Region), and Mr. Kelly Cook and Mr. Derek Eades (CID) staffed this operational period. TCEQ contractors and EPA also manned this operational period.
2. The main focus for this operational period was to continue air monitoring at the site perimeter and develop/implement a plan to mitigate the ammonia tanks on-site.
3. TCEQ will continue night time coverage to staff as long as contractors (CTEH) are conducting air monitoring during the same period.
4. Repatriation for local residences was allowed for residents up to Walnut Street. ATF has one more residential section (north of Walnut) to clear for their investigation which should be completed by late tomorrow.
5. Specific chemicals being monitored by CTEH included volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon monoxide, chlorine, nitrogen dioxide, and lower explosive limit of methane.
6. TCEQ Kelly Cook, Derek Eades, David Mann, and Abel Garcia met with representatives from the Department of Public Safety, ATF, Union Pacific Railroad, and TCEQ contractors to discuss the issues regarding the removal of the remaining anhydrous ammonia inventory from the storage tank. The removal of the ammonia product has been identified as a top priority due to repatriation efforts, risks associated with extended storage time, and desire to further investigate the storage tank area. It was determined that to off-gas the product would take too much time. A plan was developed and agreed to by all participants to off-load the remaining product inventory (3000 – 4000 gallons) to a MC331 transport. Efforts were successful locating an off-loading transport in Waco which arrived at the site at 17:00 hours. TCEQ contractors modeled and

developed a total tank failure plume model in the unlikely event a total tank failure occurred during the off-loading activity. Prevailing winds for the next two days are from the southeast. The plume model shows affected areas in the event of a total tank failure. Plume values are included for 25 ppm, 150 ppm, and 750 ppm.

7. A final planning meeting at the high school was held at 18:30 hours to finalize plans for the off-loading event. A site safety plan was developed and shared by the ICP safety officers and TCEQ staff. The off-loading was planned to occur 19:00 hours – 24:00 hours during the 7<sup>th</sup> operational period. A 5000 gallon water truck was provided to assist with the tanks wash and scrub down.
8. No concerns noted during the continuous air monitoring. Wind direction through the day varied slightly from SE to SSE.
9. If the tank off-loading is successful, Union Pacific will start repair work on the tracks near the facility at 07:00 hours.
10. EPA is preparing an area sampling plan to determine if there are any concerns with possible herbicide/pesticide contamination from chemicals that may have been stored on-site.